



Coyote Valley Specific Plan

Task Force Meeting #2

City Hall, Room 106

Summary of the Meeting of
November 4, 2002

Advisory Group Members Present:

Mayor Ron Gonzales (co-chair), Councilmember Forrest Williams (co-chair), Councilmember Pat Dando, Supervisor Don Gage, Chuck Butters, Eric Carruthers, Helen Chapman, Jim Cunneen, Russ Danielson, Amy Dean, Craig Edgerton, Dan Hancock, Doreen Morgan, Chris Platten, Ken Saso, Steve Schott, Jr., Steve Speno, Neil Struthers, and Terry Watt.

Advisory Group Members Absent:

Gladwyn D'Souza.

Community Members Present:

Francesca Tierney, Michael Bomberger, Robert Oneto, Bobbie Fischler, Tom Armstrong, Ray Hashimoto, Kerry Williams, Crisand Giles, David Zippin, Annie Saso, and Phyllis Ward.

City and Other Agencies Staff Present:

Joe Guerra (Mayor's Office), Jennifer Gallart (Mayor's Office), Councilmember Linda LeZotte (District 1), Tona Duncanson (Council District 1), Anthony Drummond (Council District 2), Rachael Gibson (Supervisor Don Gage's Office), Dave Mitchell (PRNS), Laurel Prevetti (PBCE), Salifu Yakubu (PBCE), Rich Buikema (PBCE), Jodie Clark (PBCE), Bill Shoe (County Planning), Marc Lucca (SCVWD), Marc Klemensic (SCVWD), and Stan Williams (SCVWD).

1. Welcome

The meeting convened at 5:30 p.m.

Co-chairs Ron Gonzales and Forrest Williams introduced themselves and welcomed the members of the Task Force and the audience to the second meeting of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves and identified their affiliations. Staff from the City and other agencies, and the general public also introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of September 10, 2002 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary for the September 10th Task Force meeting was unanimously accepted.

3. Brown Act Rules

Senior Deputy City Attorney Renee Gurza stated that the Brown Act requires all meetings of legislative bodies to be open and accessible to the public (per a handout distributed to the Task Force). Agendas must be posted at least 72 hours in advance to ensure adequate opportunity for the public to attend. A congregation of a majority of Task Force members constitutes a meeting of the Task Force. Renee advised Task Force members to be sensitive about e-mail correspondence, which under certain circumstances could conflict with the requirements of the Brown Act. To maintain consistency with the Act, she asked members to pass any e-mail correspondence to staff for inclusion in the public record. She added that any violations of the Act could subject Task Force members to misdemeanor lawsuits. Co-chair Forrest Williams appealed to the Task Force to pay attention to the requirements of the Brown Act, and indicated that its intent is not to muzzle members but to guide the conduct of meetings.

4. Detailed Work Plan

Laurel Prevetti distributed and presented a draft work plan prepared by staff. The work plan anticipates 18 months for the preparation of a draft Specific Plan, and another 18 months for the completion of the design guidelines, zoning, Environmental Impact Report, and public hearings. The work plan identifies major phases of the planning process for both the Specific Plan and the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). She explained that since there are species of concern in the Coyote Valley area, an HCP is required by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Supervisor Don Gage underscored the importance of the HCP and indicated the County's efforts to partner with the City on a regional HCP.

Laurel indicated that the work plan builds on the vision and expected outcomes for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan established by the City Council in the Specific Plan Initiation memorandum adopted August 20, 2002. She explained that two sets of consultants would be needed to help develop the Specific Plan. The first set would collect data on existing conditions, constraints, and opportunities. The second set of consultants would complete the land planning, urban design, engineering, economic, financing, and environmental work. The hiring of the second set could involve a design competition or charrette as a way to foster more creativity amongst the consultants and involve the Task Force and public. Several Task Force members indicated that the design competition should be based on practical guidelines, including financial feasibility and the consultant's demonstrated experience with their designs actually constructed.

Task Force members expressed great concern about a three year overall effort, requesting staff to shorten it prior to bringing the work plan to the City Council for its consideration. Members also requested that the work plan identify key points in the process when several public hearings would be held before the City Council, rather than just one hearing at the conclusion of the entire effort. Staff agreed to make these changes.

The Task Force then had a general discussion of the work elements. Members were particularly interested in the infrastructure requirements and their costs, stressing the importance of obtaining that information as early as possible since it would affect land planning and urban design. Members were interested in the Plan containing creative and flexible solutions rather than relying only on traditional approaches (e.g., flood control and the distribution of costs). Others expressed interest in creating urban character with the start of any development, guided by sound market analysis. Finally, there was a concern about the potential for "uninformed interference" from other agencies. In this regard, they suggested that the existing designation of North and Mid-Coyote Valley areas as suitable places for development should be clearly articulated as longstanding policy of the San Jose General Plan, and that such development should fuel the protection of other lands.

5. Outreach Process

Laurel Prevetti indicated that the preparation of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan is an open process. Outreach is being extended to various groups and stakeholders to participate in the process. In addition to the Task Force meetings, there are bimonthly meetings of a Technical Advisory Committee, which includes a wide range of agencies and interest groups. Staff will also convene periodic community and property owner meetings. The Web is being used to post information and e-mail is being utilized to facilitate communication. The Task Force expressed their support for proactive outreach and asked staff to present an outreach proposal at the next meeting. One Task Force member suggested that outreach include those individuals and groups who were interested in the Cisco campus proposal, and another member requested that the outreach proposal should reflect the City's cultural, economic, and ethnic diversity. Mayor Gonzales and Supervisor Gage indicated that they would keep surrounding municipalities apprised of the Specific Plan process through their involvement in other regional forums.

6. Public Comments

Stan Williams expressed interest in the Santa Clara Valley Water District being an active participant in Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:35 p.m. The next meeting would be the second Monday in January, and the one following would be the first Monday in February.